

9/16/04, 321

(# 321)

IN THE SPECIFICATION

ps - 10/5/04

~~Please insert the following new paragraph on page 1 at line 2~~

~~This application is an RCE of application No. 09/645,321 filed August 25,~~

2000.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 1-3.

Please amend claims 4, 5, 17 and 18 and add new claims 19-22 to read as follows. A marked-up copy of these claims showing the changes made thereto, is attached.

4. (Amended) A process for producing N-acetylneuraminic acid which comprises:
- providing in an aqueous medium (i) a culture of a microorganism having N-acetylneuraminic acid aldolase activity or N-acetylneuraminic acid synthetase activity, or a treated matter of the culture, (ii) a culture of a microorganism capable of producing pyruvic acid or a treated matter of the culture when a microorganism having N-acetylneuraminic acid aldolase activity is used in (i) above, or a culture of a microorganism capable of producing phosphoenolpyruvic acid or a treated matter of the culture when a microorganism having N-acetylneuraminic acid synthetase activity is used in (i) above, (iii) N-acetylmannosamine which is produced by allowing a culture of a microorganism harboring DNA encoding N-acetylglucosamine 2-epimerase derived from a microorganism belonging to the genus *Synechocystis*, or a treated matter of the culture and N-acetylglucosamine to be present in an aqueous medium to form and accumulate N-acetylmannosamine in the aqueous medium, and (iv) an energy source which is necessary